

## Valentine, Greg

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**From:** Connor, Patrick <patrick\_connor@fws.gov>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 18, 2016 8:52 AM  
**To:** Valentine, Greg  
**Cc:** Darren LeBlanc  
**Subject:** Re: Dripping Springs TX TCEQ permit WQ0014488003 and USEPA TX0136778  
**Attachments:** 2002 May 6 Biological Opinion USEPA City of Austin stormwater TX.pdf; White et al 2006 Recommended\_QW\_Federally\_Listed\_Spp\_Texas.pdf

The LCRA biological opinion was attached to the previous email. here are some other docs of potential interest that relate to the Barton Springs salamander. We have also listed the Austin blind salamander as endangered and designated critical habitat for the Austin blind salamander since then.

[https://www.fws.gov/southwest/es/Documents/R2ES/4TX\\_Sal\\_Final\\_LCH\\_fCH\\_Rule\\_Austin\\_Blind\\_JPS.pdf](https://www.fws.gov/southwest/es/Documents/R2ES/4TX_Sal_Final_LCH_fCH_Rule_Austin_Blind_JPS.pdf)

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Patrick Connor  
Fish and Wildlife Biologist

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On Mon, Oct 17, 2016 at 2:32 PM, Valentine, Greg <[valentine.greg@epa.gov](mailto:valentine.greg@epa.gov)> wrote:

I was not here, I was working sampling groundwater at landfills and hazardous waste site...oh the glory days!!! I would love to see the biological opinion on the Corps project. How big of a document we talking?

Greg Valentine  
Environmental Scientist

NPDES Management Section  
NPDES Permits & TMDLs Branch

Water Division

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**From:** Connor, Patrick [mailto:[patrick\\_connor@fws.gov](mailto:patrick_connor@fws.gov)]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 17, 2016 2:28 PM  
**To:** Valentine, Greg <[valentine.greg@epa.gov](mailto:valentine.greg@epa.gov)>  
**Cc:** Erik Orsak <[erik\\_orsak@fws.gov](mailto:erik_orsak@fws.gov)>  
**Subject:** Re: Dripping Springs TX TCEQ permit WQ0014488003 and USEPA TX0136778

Thanks.

I don't know if you were at EPA in 2000  
when we consulted with the Corps of Engineers  
on a water supply project (LCRA) for Dripping

Springs area. You may be interested in the biological opinion for that formal consultation.

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Patrick Connor

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On Mon, Oct 17, 2016 at 2:05 PM, Valentine, Greg <[valentine.greg@epa.gov](mailto:valentine.greg@epa.gov)> wrote:

Patrick/Erik,

Attached is a .pdf copy of the Fact Sheet & draft permit. Please let me know if there is anything else you need from me.

A short summary of the City of Dripping Springs draft permit: The facility has not yet been built but is proposing to discharge 995,000 gallons/day once it reaches its final phase. A citizen's group, Protect Our Water (POW), is contesting the permit. Their main issue is with antidegradation (my problem, not yours) of the receiving waters. However, they are also concerned about endangered species in the area, particularly the Barton Springs Salamander and the Austin Blind Salamander (which isn't listed in the permit or fact sheet) but was brought to our attention by the POW folks.

If you would review the permit and fact sheet and let me know if you have any concerns pertaining to the facility's proposed discharge I would really appreciate it.

FYI...My initial due date was this Friday, October 21, 2016, however we have obtained a 45-day extension. We are supposed to have a meeting with the POW folks sometime this week, however a date and time have not yet been established.

Thanks,

Greg Valentine  
Environmental Scientist

NPDES Management Section  
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**From:** Connor, Patrick [mailto:[patrick\\_connor@fws.gov](mailto:patrick_connor@fws.gov)]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 17, 2016 1:39 PM  
**To:** Valentine, Greg <[valentine.greg@epa.gov](mailto:valentine.greg@epa.gov)>  
**Cc:** Erik Orsak <[erik\\_orsak@fws.gov](mailto:erik_orsak@fws.gov)>  
**Subject:** Dripping Springs TX TCEQ permit WQ0014488003 and USEPA TX0136778

Mr. Valentine:

Tanya Sommer, my supervisor, asked me to look into this project permit issue.

I also may have some assistance from Erik Orsak in our Arlington office.

Could you please email the proposed permit(s) to Erik and me? I will try to look it over directly. Thanks.

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Patrick Connor  
Fish and Wildlife Biologist

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